

# Chapter 2

## Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement is key to successful implementation of the Cosumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The first CABY IRWMP was initiated in 2005 by a diverse group of water suppliers and purveyors, governmental agencies, recreation and business interests, and watershed stewardship groups representing various CABY watersheds. Following this extensive and comprehensive planning effort, the IRWMP was adopted in 2007 by 25 organizations in the region. The initial CABY stakeholder process and public outreach informed as many stakeholders as possible about Plan development and garnered widespread support during Plan preparation and beyond. Since its inception, the CABY group has been noted for the diversity of its membership and the efforts members have made to achieve genuine collaboration. A central aspect of the CABY effort has been its continued and ongoing outreach to groups, communities, agencies, and organizations across the region. As a result, today there are 42 CABY member organizations that have now adopted the IRWMP. CABY has consistently added new member organizations since 2005.



This chapter describes the processes that CABY employs to ensure ongoing and active participation in the IRWMP decision-making process by a variety of stakeholders, including those who may be affected by the Plan. The chapter describes the methods and strategies that will be used by the group to continue the development of an integrated and adaptive planning effort focused on finding solutions that support both common and individual objectives for the region.

### 2.1 CABY Stakeholders

CABY stakeholders are essential to identifying issues, populating resource management strategies, and developing objectives. Perhaps most important, as a Plan is adopted, they are integral to making an IRWMP come alive by incorporating those objectives into their respective work, and by securing funding and implementation of its programs and projects.

CABY provides opportunities for involvement for two primary types of stakeholders. The first group includes those organizations that have adopted the Plan and constitutes the primary decision-making body for CABY – the RWMG<sup>1</sup>/Planning Committee (PC). The second group, known as interested

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The CABY Regional Water Management Group (as understood in the IRWM Guidelines) is formally known as the Planning Committee (PC). The non-profit organization formed to support ongoing fundraising and grant implementation support is known as the CABY Regional Water Management Group. The PC, therefore, is the central governance body for the group. To avoid confusion, it is important to know that the CABY RWMG is NOT a governance entity but was formed solely for the purposes of obtaining and administering funds.

stakeholders, includes those groups or organizations that participate and have expressed an interest in CABY but have not adopted the Plan because of complex adoption requirements, limited staff capacity for meetings, or other reasons. The interested stakeholders are not part of the decision-making structure of CABY.

Most of the major stakeholders in the region with responsibility for, or interests in, water management issues are CABY adoptees. These stakeholders include water management agencies, conservation groups, counties, regional watershed collaboratives, recreational interests, agricultural interests, and disadvantaged communities. Table 2-1 - CABY PC Members/Adoptees, provides a list of CABY IRWMP adoptees. Table 2-2 - CABY PC Members Unable to Officially Adopt the Plan, includes PC members unable to officially adopt the Plan; and Table 2-3 - CABY Interested Stakeholders, includes all interested stakeholders and organizations.

<b>Table 2-1</b> <b>CABY PC Members/Adoptees</b>			
<b>Water Agencies and Community Services Districts</b>			
Alleghany County Water District	Camptonville CSD	Downieville PUD	El Dorado County Water Agency
El Dorado Irrigation District	Georgetown Divide PUD	Grizzly Flats CSD	Nevada Irrigation District
North Yuba CSD	Placer County Water Agency	Washington County Water District	
<b>Conservation Groups/Non-Governmental Organizations</b>			
American Rivers	American River Conservancy	American River Watershed Group	Bear Yuba Land Trust
Dry Creek Conservancy	Natural Heritage Institute	Protect American River Canyons	Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (SARSAS)
The Sierra Fund	Sierra County Land Trust	Sierra Nevada Alliance	Sierra Streams Institute
South Yuba River Citizens League	The Nature Conservancy	The Sierra Club (Mother Lode Chapter)	Upper American River Foundation
Wolf Creek Community Alliance	Yuba Watershed Institute		
<b>City and County Agencies</b>			
City of Colfax	City of Downieville	City of Grass Valley	City of Nevada City
City of Placerville	City of Sierra	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	North San Juan Fire Protection District
Nevada County	Placer County	Sierra County	Sierra City Fire District
<b>Regional/Federal Entities</b>			
El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	Mountain Counties Water Resources Association	Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Placer County Resource Conservation District			
<b>Watershed Groups/Councils</b>			
American River Watershed Group	American Basin Council of Watersheds	Bear River Watershed Group	Yuba-Bear Watershed Council
<b>Recreation</b>			
American River Recreation Association	California Outdoors	Gold Country Fly Fishers	Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers

**Table 2-2**  
**CABY PC Members Unable to Officially Adopt the Plan**

Tribes			
Colfax-Todd's Valley Consolidated Tribe	Colfax Rancheria	Shingle Springs Rancheria	Tsi-Akim Maidu
Tyme Maidu Tribe, Berry Creek Rancheria	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California		
Regional/Federal Entities			
Eldorado National Forest	Tahoe National Forest		

**Table 2-3**  
**CABY Interested Stakeholders**

Apple Hill Growers	El Dorado County	Nevada County	Sierra Business Council
Sierra Native Alliance	Group Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Sierra Water Work	Yuba County

### 2.1.1 Water Purveyors, Wastewater Agencies, and Hydroelectric Generators

The CABY RWMG includes the four main water agencies in the region (see Figure 2-1 - CABY Region Agency Boundaries) – El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Water Agency, Placer County Water Agency, and Nevada Irrigation District. CABY membership also includes many of the small community water purveyors, such as Georgetown Divide and Downieville Public Utility Districts, Washington County and Alleghany County Water Districts, and Grizzly Flats and Camptonville Community Services Districts.

#### 2.1.1.1 El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)

EID is a water utility serving nearly 100,000 residents in El Dorado County. EID was formally organized in 1925 under California's Irrigation District Law (Water Code §§ 20500 et seq.). EID provides drinking water for homes, schools, agriculture, and businesses, and supplies recycled water to irrigate yards and public landscapes. EID's facilities and delivery infrastructure for drinking water include 1,200 miles of pipeline, 40 miles of ditches, 6 treatment plants, 33 storage reservoirs, and 21 pumping stations.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, EID owns and operates the El Dorado Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 184.

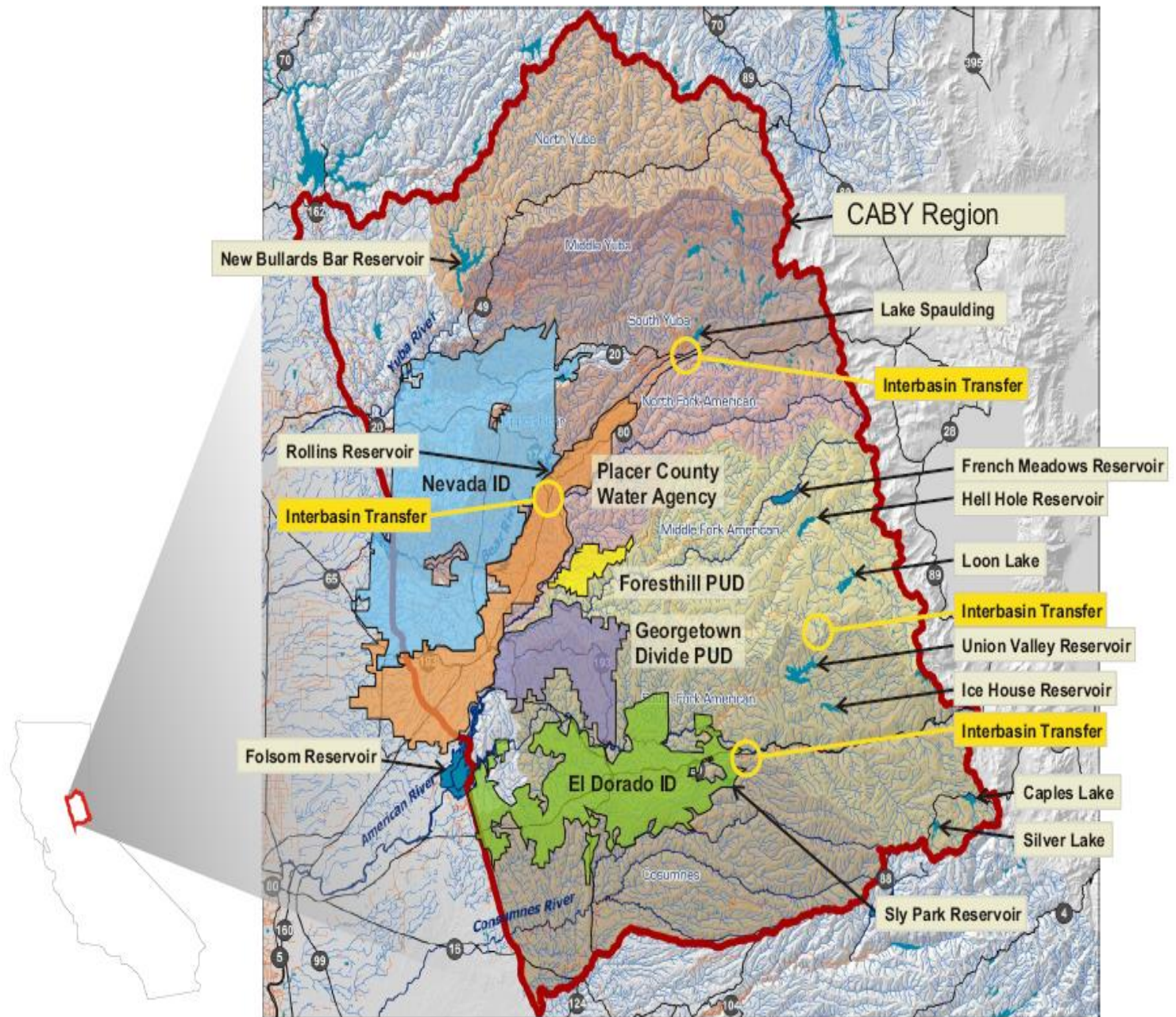
#### 2.1.1.2 El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA)

EDCWA is not a water provider. The agency was formed by special act of the California State Legislature in 1959, and its boundaries are coterminous with those of El Dorado County. Among EDCWA's authorities are the power to contract for water and to finance and construct, operate, and maintain works for the storage and transmission of water. EDCWA may contract for the sale of water to water purveyors, but is not permitted to retail water directly to customers. The Agency has undertaken the role of overall county water planning and securing new water supply for the county.<sup>3</sup> The residents of El

<sup>2</sup>EID, 2006b

<sup>3</sup>EDCWA, 2003

Figure 2-1 – CABY Region Agency Boundaries



Dorado County purchase their water from five water purveyors: EID, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Grizzly Flats Community Services District, South Tahoe Public Utility District, and Tahoe City Public Utility District.

### 2.1.1.3 Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)

PCWA was created under State legislation entitled "Placer County Water Agency Act," adopted in 1957. PCWA carries out a broad range of responsibilities including water resource planning and management, retail and wholesale supply of irrigation and drinking water, and production of hydroelectric energy. PCWA is the primary provider of water to Placer County residents.<sup>4</sup> PCWA owns and operates the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2079.

### 2.1.1.4 Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

NID was formed in 1921 to provide a reliable year-round water supply to its local constituents. The District manages 287,000 acres and supplies water to homes, farms, and businesses. NID water produces electricity and provides for public recreation. A significant component of NID's operations is the Yuba-Bear Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2266.

### 2.1.1.5 Small Community Water Districts

Georgetown Divide and Downieville Public Utilities Districts, Washington County and Alleghany County Water Districts, and Grizzly Flats and Camptonville Community Services Districts have all adopted the IRWMP.

Table 2-4 Small Community Water Districts			
Agency	Number of Hook-ups	Water Source	DAC
Alleghany County Water District	To Come	To Come	Yes
Camptonville Community Services District	72 or 74	Campbell Gulch – propriety rights through water resources	Yes
Downieville Public Utilities District	230 +/-	Polly Creek	Yes
Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District	4,000	Stumpy Meadows	No
Grizzly Flats Community Services District	600	Surface water – Big Canyon / North Canyon Diversion	Yes
Washington County Water District	122	Own water rights (pre-1914), water conveyed by NID from Bowman Lake via Canyon Creek	Yes

### 2.1.1.6 Wastewater Agencies

The majority of the unincorporated region is currently served by individual septic systems. However, within unincorporated cities, wastewater treatment in the CABY region is handled either through urban-scale, city-operated treatment plants (e.g., Nevada City, Grass Valley, Auburn, Colfax), or by community services districts that serve smaller, more isolated populations (e.g., Applegate, Plymouth). Additionally, EID owns and operates wastewater treatment facilities within some unincorporated communities in El Dorado County. The City of Auburn is exploring participation in a regional water treatment system in Lincoln.

<sup>4</sup>PCWA, 2006



Generally, wastewater treatment facilities in the region have a history of performing well; however, budgetary constraints, stormwater infiltration, and aging collection infrastructure does present ongoing operational and maintenance considerations for several communities, such as Colfax.

<b>Table 2-5 Wastewater Treatment Facilities</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Community</b>
Auburn	Auburn Wastewater System	Auburn
Colfax	City of Colfax WWTP	Colfax
EID	El Dorado Irrigation District	El Dorado Hills, Deer Creek
Grass Valley	Grass Valley WWTP	Grass Valley
Nevada City	Nevada City WWTP	Nevada City
Newcastle	Newcastle Sanitary District	Newcastle
Nevada County	Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Cascade Shores WWTP	Zone 1,2,4-10 of Nevada County
Placer County Department of Facility Services	Applegate WWTP	Applegate
Placer County Department of Facility Services	SMD No. 1 WWTP	North Auburn
Placerville	City of Placerville WWTP	Placerville
Plymouth	Plymouth WWTP	City of Plymouth

## 2.1.2 Municipal and County Governments

Cities and counties have jurisdiction and statutory authority over local land use and were included in the CABY IRWMP planning process (see Figure 2-1 - CABY Region Agency Boundaries). This is important because of the critical linkage between planning process and management actions related to local land use and water management. In addition, the CABY planning framework included detailed evaluation of the adopted city and county land use, and the CABY IRWMP seeks to be consistent and complementary to these plans.

The CABY region includes all or portions of eight counties—Plumas, Yuba, Butte, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, and Alpine. The portions of the CABY region that are in Plumas, Butte, Amador, and Alpine are extremely small and are primarily uninhabited or very sparsely populated rural areas. Placer and Sierra Counties have adopted the IRWMP; CABY members in the remaining counties continue to work toward Plan adoption.

The majority of the incorporated cities in the CABY region have adopted the Plan, including Placerville, Colfax, Grass Valley, and Nevada City. CABY continues to work with the remaining incorporated cities in the region to gain adoption of the Plan.

## 2.1.3 Native American Tribes

The CABY region includes both Federally Recognized Tribes (FRT) and Non-Federally Recognized Tribes (NFRT). FRTs have sovereign powers (a unique political status that requires government-to-government

relationships). FRTs generally have paid staff and clear points of entry for outreach (e.g., Environmental Director, Tribal Council), whereas NFRTs often do not. Further, individual NFRT members may themselves be geographically dispersed, making outreach more difficult.

The Tribal entities contacted during the CABY outreach process include the Buena Vista Rancheria, Wilton Rancheria, Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria, Lone Band of Miwok Indians, Jackson Band of the Mi-Wuk, Nashville-El Dorado Miwok, Strawberry Valley Rancheria, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Tsi-Akim Maidu, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Nevada City Rancheria: Nisenan Tribe, and the Tyme Maidu/Berry Creek Rancheria.

### **2.1.4 Non-Governmental and Community Organizations**

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) bring significant experience in successfully conducting and implementing watershed assessment, planning, and restoration on various scales. American Rivers (AR) is a national river conservation group whose California regional office is located in the CABY region. AR was founded in 1973 and has more than 65,000 members and supporters nationwide. The Sierra Nevada Alliance was founded in 1993 and serves to network over 80 groups devoted to the protection and restoration of the Sierra Nevada. The South Yuba River Citizens League brings more than two decades of experience working at a single-watershed scale to engage local citizens in the protection and restoration of the Yuba watershed. The Sierra Fund was established in 2001, and is a community foundation that seeks to increase and organize investment in the region's natural resources and communities. The American River Conservancy purchases or accepts land and conservation easements to transfer these lands into the public domain and provides environmental education and outdoor recreation for all ages. The Dry Creek Conservancy was organized in 1996 to facilitate watershed conservation, restoration, and education in the watersheds of Dry Creek, Pleasant Grove Creek, Auburn Ravine Creek, Coon Creek, and surrounding areas in Placer, Sutter, and Sacramento Counties. Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead was founded in 2008 to facilitate the return of salmon and steelhead to the entire length of the Auburn Ravine. Sierra Streams Institute was founded in 1995 (as the Friends of Deer Creek) and promotes community stewardship and advances scientific knowledge of watersheds through monitoring, research, restoration, and education. Other CABY-member conservation groups include: American River Watershed Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Protect American River Canyons, The Sierra Club, Sierra County Land Trust, Amador Land Trust, Bear Yuba Land Trust, Upper American River Foundation, Wolf Creek Community Alliance, and the Yuba Watershed Institute.

### **2.1.5 Recreational Interests**

Recreational interests are important participants in the CABY RWMG because they offer a unique perspective on water supply management issues and have an economic stake in water use. Recreational participants include the American River Recreation Association, California Outdoors, Gold Country Fly Fishers, and the Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers.

### **2.1.6 Industry Organizations and Agricultural Interests**

Since its inception, agriculture has been an important component of the IRWMP. The agricultural organizations on the Planning Committee include: Placer County Resource Conservation District, Nevada County Resource Conservation District, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, Apple Hill Growers, and El Dorado County Agriculture Commissioner.



### **2.1.7 Regional Watershed Collaboratives**

The regional watershed collaboratives involved in CABY are composed of an array of other organizations that address issues of importance to CABY on a watershed or a subwatershed basis. Watershed collaboratives that serve on the PC include: the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association, American River Watershed Group, Bear River Watershed Group, Yuba-Bear Watershed Council, South Fork American River Watershed Group, and American Basin Council of Watersheds.

### **2.1.8 Disadvantaged Community (DAC)**

Out of the 18 DACs in the region (see Table 2-5 - Wastewater Treatment Facilities), a total of four have adopted the Plan (thus becoming part of the PC). CABY has invited the remaining 14 DACs to participate in meetings and/or project development activities.

## **2.2 *The Process Used to Identify Stakeholders***

As part of its overall outreach, CABY seeks input from all regional stakeholders, not just those likely to offer formal input to the planning activities or adopt the Plan. A collaborative process involving a wide variety of interests not only broadens the collective understanding of regional water issues and improves project development, but also offers a forum for resolving conflicts among participants. It attempts to achieve a balance among water interests to best serve the region.

Staff from the El Dorado Irrigation District initiated the stakeholder outreach effort and identified a broad list of potential participants. EID used recommendations from each recruited entity to systematically expand the list of possible interested parties, and also conducted a survey of agencies, organizations, and entities in the region with interest in water management (using the initial list of possible types of participants provided by the Department of Water Resources in the program guidelines). Over time, this list has been refined; groups have responded by: 1) active participation and Plan adoption; 2) requests to remain on the mailing list with varied levels of participation; and 3) participation only in targeted meetings or work groups.

Through its member groups, committed participants, and staff, CABY has continued to recruit participation by ongoing outreach, recruiting over 20 additional Plan adoptees since the original Plan was adopted in 2007 by 25 entities.

The PC in its formative stages identified diverse participation as a guiding principle for CABY's development. This principle has supported the recruitment of new RWMG members every year since the Plan's original adoption. In particular, the outreach activities for this Plan Update have targeted disadvantaged, Tribal, and Latino communities with substantive outreach efforts.

As a means to ensure organizational diversity, consistent participation, and effective management, the CABY PC drafted a charter that formalized the group's structure and protocols for decision making, membership, and communication (see Appendix A - 2006 CABY Charter and Appendix B - MOU).

### **2.2.1 RWMG Levels of Participation**

#### **2.2.1.1 Interested Parties**

Interested parties receive all CABY meeting notices and materials, attend meetings, participate in discussions, and are invited to participate in CABY project development activities. While they are

integral to identifying issues, developing resource management strategies, and defining objectives, they do not participate in the formal decision-making process of the organization. All interested parties are encouraged to adopt the IRWM Plan. The formal decision-making process is discussed in Section 2.5.

### **2.2.1.2 IRWMP Adoptees (or Planning Committee [PC])**

During preparation of the 2013 Plan Update, the existing PC determined that any entity which adopted the Plan would become a part of the ongoing governance of the organization – through the PC (the PC is synonymous with the “Regional Water Management Group or RWMG” mandated by the IRWM Guidelines).

Numerous entities have adopted the Plan since the round of adoptions. Generally, an organization that wishes to adopt the IRWM Plan identifies a representative (and an alternate) to participate in CABY meetings and other activities. Similar to interested parties, adoptee representatives attend meetings regularly and participate in discussions and project development activities. An important distinction from ‘interested parties’ is that adoptees may submit projects to CABY for possible integration into the IRWMP and may participate in the consensus decision-making process.

### **2.2.2 Ongoing Outreach to Invite New Stakeholders**

Since CABY’s initial 2005/2006 outreach, CABY has used its existing membership to identify other groups and individuals with an interest in water resource management in the region, or that can help meet the Plan objectives.

CABY has focused its more recent recruitment efforts on underrepresented communities (e.g., DAC, Tribal, Latino) and on entities which have a more complex and time-consuming adoption process, such as counties. In addition, CABY continuously performs targeted outreach to broaden participation in four specific constituent groups: business, agriculture, Tribal, and Latino. CABY’s outreach to business groups involves direct one-on-one contacts as well as presentations at business organizations and associations; agricultural groups are targeted primarily through the Resource Conservation Districts. See sections 2.2.5.2 and 2.2.5.3, below, for a more detailed explanation of the Tribal and Hispanic outreach efforts.

CABY promotes access to its IRWMP activities and collaboration in the process in several specific ways:

1. quarterly PC meetings, open to all stakeholders and the public;
2. the CABY website ([cabyregion.org](http://cabyregion.org)) includes information about the IRWMP, individual member groups, and members’ projects. CABY members also use the website to receive input from the public and other members regarding specific projects and proposals;
3. CABY staff attends the formal meetings of many of its member groups (upon invitation) and provides information regarding CABY activities at those meetings;
4. CABY representatives also hold one-on-one meetings with stakeholders throughout the region and meet at least once a year on an individual basis with each IRWMP adoptee; and
5. Work Group meetings to develop multi-stakeholder, multi-objective projects on topics such as water supply and drought relief, fish passage and habitat, working landscapes, citizen stewards, Tribal outreach, and DACs.

CABY strategies for stakeholder participation also include:

1. facilitating the involvement of stakeholders by providing planning or informational sessions, holding planning meetings in accessible locations, accommodating requests for interpreters, translators, and materials in Braille, or electronic forms of media;
2. making meeting notices, agendas, and minutes available to the public via the CABY website; providing seating and writing space for stakeholders who wish to observe CABY meetings; posting ground rules for public input during meetings and allotting time for public input at its meetings;
3. the PC is charged with ongoing recruitment and disseminating information and facilitating input by others; and
4. sustaining stakeholder involvement by recognizing it during planning meetings and according it the same importance as any other input, questions, or requests; being prepared to hear what stakeholders say, and respecting the passion they bring to their participation, is a hallmark of the CABY process.

The Work Group (WG) meetings have been and remain an important part of CABY's ongoing outreach. WGs are initiated to address specific issues pertinent to CABY stakeholders. A variety of stakeholders participate in the WG meetings, some of whom are PC members, IRWMP adoptees, and interested parties, and some with no previous interactions with CABY. The WG structure has led a wide variety of organizations to adopt the IRWMP, and has increased participation and diversity in CABY activities in general.

In addition, project galleries are frequently included as part of at least one annual PC meeting. Project galleries include short presentations from individual project sponsors, followed by a period of individual Q&A sessions. Presenters include both CABY members and interested parties. These galleries allow CABY members to receive information on project activities throughout the region, to provide feedback on those activities, and to cultivate relationships with a variety of stakeholders.

To ensure that the current IRWMP was reviewed and adopted by as many stakeholder groups as possible, the PC members kept relevant entity and agency board members informed throughout the planning process, and CABY staff and PC members provided regular briefings to interested organizations. The purpose of these briefings was twofold: to inform and educate constituents about integrated planning efforts and to solicit input from constituents on the contents of the Plan. For example, the CABY director conducted many briefings at constituent organizations, including Mountain Counties, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Sierra Water Work Group, Boards of Supervisors, and others.

### **2.2.3 Recommendation of Additional Stakeholders**

Existing stakeholders alert the PC to the existence of newly identified stakeholders, the formation of new groups, and/or opportunities to recruit additional departments or divisions within a member agency. These newly identified stakeholders are sent CABY meeting notices and materials, are contacted in person by CABY representatives, and/or are invited to attend the ongoing meetings (PC and WG).

### **2.2.4 Identification of Stakeholders through Water Management Issues**

As part of the extensive Work Group-based project development activities within CABY, additional stakeholders have been identified and targeted for recruitment. For example, the Western Placer Creeks Work Group has focused on developing projects to support anadromous fish in low-elevation headwater

creeks in the western portion of the Plan area. Both SARSAS and Dry Creek Conservancy began to attend these meetings and ultimately became CABY adoptees. The Working Landscapes and Mountain Meadow Work Groups have similarly brought new stakeholders into the CABY process. The primary vehicle for bringing new interest-based stakeholders has been and continues to be the Work Group structure.

People participate in the Work Groups because CABY's mission aligns with their agency's or organization's mission. CABY also facilitates involvement in response to emerging issues such as noxious weed eradication (e.g., scotch broom), climate change, or wildfire events. These emerging issues can and have changed the priorities and urgency of a given issue. As stated above, project development activities have proven to be key to early recruitment of new stakeholders.

### **2.2.5 Targeted Outreach to Underrepresented Groups**

CABY established a framework document to ensure participation from a wide variety of stakeholders, including underrepresented groups, entitled *CABY Outreach Plan for DAC and Communities Possibly Affected by Environmental Justice Issues* (see Appendix B - CABY MOU). The following section provides a definition of CABY region DACs and is followed by a discussion on outreach barriers in these communities.

#### **2.2.5.1 Disadvantaged Communities**

In early 2006, CABY conducted a series of outreach calls to DACs within the region to describe the IRWM planning process and explore potential membership in the PC. In fall 2006, CABY outreach to DACs focused on identifying and informing the appropriate community representatives about Plan development, determining if the community had a public works department or other department that might have potential projects and, when appropriate, identifying potential projects that might assist CABY in addressing its goals and objectives. Through this work it became clear that many DACs lacked staff and resources to participate consistently in the process, develop projects, or prepare a project application. Therefore, CABY conducted a third intensive round of outreach that began in early 2007 and continued through 2010. Outreach included extensive face-to-face meetings with DAC staff, boards of directors, and volunteer representatives on a regular basis. The CABY team expended hundreds of hours in meetings, work sessions, trainings, and direct technical assistance – with the dual purpose of directly involving the DACs in the work and structure of CABY, and in developing projects to implement the Plan's objectives of benefitting critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs. Please see Appendix C - DAC, Tribal, Latino Outreach, for a complete description of the DAC Outreach Plan.

As a result of this latest effort, the IRWMP includes 12 projects that originate from and/or benefit DACs in the region and are a part of the CABY implementation effort. As an additional direct result is the successful Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant inclusion of 18 projects, 14 of which were for DACs. Further, nine of the last ten entities that adopted the IRWMP were DACs recruited as part of the CABY outreach process.

CABY also created a DAC Work Group that now includes representatives from most of the DACs in the region. CABY staff continues ongoing outreach to expand participation. This Work Group meets to discuss project development, partnership opportunities, and IRWMP activities in general. DAC Work Group members have also been invited to PC meetings.

CABY staff continues to meet one-on-one with DAC representatives to provide technical assistance in drafting project applications. This will continue in 2013 and beyond.

**Objectives for DAC Outreach:**

1. Use a phased approach to outreach that gradually reaches greater numbers of people living in disadvantaged communities; utilize census data as it becomes available to identify and outreach to new DACs.
2. Recognizing the financial and economic challenges of DACs, utilize a 'go to them' approach as much as possible (versus a 'come to us' approach).
3. Work with DACs to develop projects from the current IRWMP projects list.
4. Work with DACs to identify critical water-resource related issues and priorities.
5. Work with DACs to identify and develop new projects to address identified issues and priorities.
6. Work with DACs to increase their capacity for fundraising to ensure the long-term success of DAC projects.
7. Work with other project sponsors to identify DACs that are/may be included in emerging opportunities for collaboration.
8. Seek to build long-term relationships between CABY and DACs.

For a full explanation of the 12 strategies by which CABY proposes to achieve these objectives (see Appendix C - DAC, Tribal, Latino Outreach), as well as materials developed in support of and/or as a result of outreach efforts.

**2.2.5.2 Native American Communities**

Since its inception, CABY has made numerous efforts to engage Tribes in the IRWM process. While some of these efforts achieved modest success in the form of project development collaboration, in general CABY's efforts to involve Tribal members have not resulted in substantive Tribal engagement. Initial efforts included direct outreach to Federally Recognized Tribes which was met with varying degrees of interest by Tribal members and/or Tribal Councils, but which did not result in sustained communication or collaboration. A second round of outreach focused on project development and involved both FRT and NFRT members. This effort produced several Tribally designed projects which remain in the CABY project suite. However, participation in project development did not translate into participation in the PC meetings, resulting in a lack of Tribal representation in this critical CABY decision-making body. A third round of outreach was designed and coordinated by the California Environmental Indian Alliance based on feedback that recruitment by individuals who were themselves Tribal members would be more appropriate. This third effort included outreach to not only Tribal members resident to the CABY region, but also to Tribal members with ancestral links to the region. This round of outreach did not meet the desired outcomes and did not result in ongoing working relationships between the CABY PC and Tribal members. As part of Plan implementation, the PC has reaffirmed its intention and commitment to achieve meaningful participation by Tribal entities and continues to focus energy on this area of outreach. Therefore, a fourth round of collaboration will be undertaken with the objective of identifying meaningful options of engaging CABY Tribal members in the planning process. This process has already begun and includes development of a series of recommendations by Tribal members to the CABY PC to assist in developing ongoing discussions and engagement.

**2.2.5.3 Hispanic Communities**

The Hispanic population is rapidly increasing within the CABY Plan area, and today Hispanics/Latinos comprise the largest ethnic minority population in the CABY region. This group, however, does not traditionally engage in planning processes such as the IRWMP due in part to linguistic, cultural, and historic barriers, as well as lack of perceived value.

The Latino population is as diverse in its origins as the Anglo population, representing multiple countries in the southern hemisphere. There are Latinos who are native English speakers who were born in the United States or moved here at a relatively young age and Latinos who have emigrated here and have limited English fluency. CABY has devised a strategy to engage both of these constituencies. To guide Hispanic/Latino outreach, CABY retained the services of Quiroz Communications, a consulting firm that specializes in Latino outreach.

Following initial outreach by Quiroz Communications, the Latino Leadership Council, whose mission is to advance the wellness and leadership capacity of Latino populations in northern California, work began with CABY representatives in late 2012 to develop a program for direct outreach to local Latino leaders. This program will continue to evolve through 2013/14 and will result in a specific set of actions in pursuit of engaging them in water issues, existing or new work groups, and involvement in the PC. These connections are likely to result in project development activities, development of educational materials, options for creating presentations in Spanish, and other similar lines of action.

Additionally, discussions and collaboration with groups such as the Latino Leadership Council will continue to inform ongoing outreach efforts, particularly to those households and community members who are mono-linguistic or linguistically isolated (where all adults in a household speak a language other than English and/or speak limited English) and who, therefore, might require Spanish-speakers' assistance to benefit from or participate in IRWM education efforts and programs. Please see Appendix C - DAC, Tribal, Latino Outreach, for the Latino Outreach Plan which includes materials developed in support of and/or as a result of the outreach effort.

### **Objectives for Hispanic/Latino Outreach:**

1. Use an iterative, phased approach to outreach that gradually includes greater numbers of Hispanics/Latinos, and that seeks preliminary information about salient water-related issues, and then confirms and focuses outreach on those areas.
2. Recognizing the financial and economic challenges of such communities, utilize a 'go to them' approach as much as possible (versus a 'come to us' approach).
3. Where practical, collaborate with existing agencies and organizations that focus on Hispanic/Latino communities to expand our reach and success.
4. Reduce problems associated with language barriers by providing key materials in the Spanish language.
5. Work to identify projects that address Hispanic/Latino issues and priorities, and provide in-kind technical assistance for planning and project design.
6. Work with CABY project sponsors to identify opportunities for collaboration that will benefit Hispanic/Latino communities.
7. Look to the longer-term horizon of the Plan; seek to have representatives of Hispanic/Latino communities become more involved, working toward the eventual goal of having representatives participating in CABY regularly, e.g., meetings, committees, work groups, and document review.
8. Seek to identify awareness and understanding of Environmental Justice within the Hispanic/Latino community; identify local EJ concerns.
9. Seek to identify barriers to Hispanic/Latino participation in the IRWMP process, and to identify possible solutions.

For a full explanation of the 14 strategies by which CABY proposes to achieve these objectives, please see Appendix C - DAC, Tribal, Latino Outreach.

## 2.3 Definition of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

A disadvantaged community is defined as a community with an annual median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI. Based on the 2010 Census, 18 communities within the CABY region are now identified as DACs (MHI is \$48,706 or below). The statewide annual MHI in California in 2010 was \$57,708.<sup>5</sup> The communities in the CABY region that qualify as disadvantaged communities are listed below in Table 2-6 and in Chapter 5, Table 5-5. The communities that meet the DAC definition have changed with the most recent census data in the following ways:

- Fourteen communities not previously identified as DACs are now considered DACs: River Pines, Kirkwood, Grizzly Flats, Soda Springs, Washington, North San Juan, Rough and Ready, Newcastle, Downieville, Alleghany, Camptonville, as well as parts of Graniteville, Pike, and Dobbins. This change is due in part to the new census data, and in part to the most recent assessment using a broader scope (the earlier assessment was not sufficiently broad).
- Four communities identified as DACs in the earlier assessment are still considered DACs with the 2010 data: Plymouth, Grass Valley, Penn Valley, and North Auburn.
- Seven communities previously defined as DACs no longer meet the DAC criteria: Palermo, Diamond Springs, Placerville, Nevada City, Foresthill, Colfax, and Challenge-Brownsville.

Table 2-6 Disadvantaged Communities in the CABY Region <sup>6</sup>		
County	Census Places	MHI
Amador	River Pines	\$ 19,918
	Plymouth	\$ 31,250
El Dorado	Kirkwood	\$ 48,155
	Grizzly Flats	\$ 32,173
Nevada	Soda Springs	\$ 40,757
	Graniteville (between Alleghany and Washington on Meadow Lake Road)	\$ -
	Washington	\$ 17,566
	North San Juan	\$ 29,145
	Grass Valley	\$ 35,385
	Rough and Ready	\$ 39,020
	Penn Valley	\$ 47,530
Placer	Newcastle	\$ 29,324
	North Auburn	\$ 44,372
Sierra	Downieville	\$ 48,125
	Alleghany	\$ 22,188
	Pike	\$ 26,429
Yuba	Dobbins (just east of Oregon House)	\$ 42,946
	Camptonville	\$ 27,031

<sup>5</sup> American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>; accessed 2/2012

<sup>6</sup> American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>; accessed 2/2012



## **2.4 Technology and Information Access**

Active participation in the IRWM planning effort requires well-informed stakeholders, as a lack of information among participants can interfere with meetings and intra-regional communication and problem solving. Regardless of their level of participation, stakeholders must have the opportunity to understand the reasons for the IRWMP. But not all stakeholders have equal access to the Internet or electronic means of communication. To overcome this obstacle, CABY takes into account a variety of potential barriers and does not rely solely on Internet access to involve potential participants.

In addition, the CABY IRWMP planning and implementation activities have always been an open process: 1) all CABY meetings are open to the public; 2) PC agendas are sent out in advance of meetings and posted on the CABY website; and 3) at each meeting the public is given an opportunity to comment. Members of the Planning and Coordinating Committees contribute names of organizations and agencies to assist in the outreach effort. (See discussion of the Coordinating Committee's role in section 2.5.2, below.) The interested parties list is broad and includes anyone interested in information about the development and outcome of the CABY IRWM planning effort.

Following is a brief overview of CABY's efforts to overcome both technological and cultural barriers in an effort to reach all interested stakeholders.

### **2.4.1 Outreach that Accounts for Barriers**

The CABY region is primarily rural. The incorporated communities are located along the three major transportation corridors in the region – Highways 80, 50, and 49. The region supports almost no public transportation and those communities which do have such systems do not serve any adjacent areas. The terrain in the upper elevations is mountainous and most of the rural areas do not have cable, reliable dish/satellite access, or other methods of systematic Internet access. Further, winter weather travel can be complicated by snow at higher elevations.

Taken as a whole, these conditions create special challenges within the more rural and frequently disadvantaged areas. Here, alternative strategies have been employed. Many of the community groups or public service districts in the more rural portions of the region are contacted directly by phone or by the U.S. Postal Service to notify them of meetings or upcoming events. In some cases, CABY members individually contact DACs or other interests in proximity to their places of work to ensure that these smaller groups know about CABY. Several members receive hard copies of meeting materials upon request. Carpooling and the use of targeted local meetings have also proven a successful strategy.

The CABY PC personally orients new attendees as part of the recruitment process and in support of ongoing involvement to the extent possible. The PC members who accomplish outreach to new organizations and entities make every effort to explain to potential stakeholders their role in the process.

Recently, CABY expanded and simplified access for those using public Internet portals through the Sacramento Watershed Information Module (SWIM) database. The SWIM database makes a tremendous amount of information available in a single location with only two data portals required: CABY and SWIM. This allows users on public Internet connections easy access to CABY data.

## 2.5 *Decision-Making Process*

The CABY stakeholder decision-making process is organized into three groups. The basic decision-making processes are presented here, while more detailed information about these groups is presented in Chapter 4, Governance. CABY makes an effort to promote involvement of stakeholders who seek leadership roles by providing leadership training, technical assistance, planning, project development, and development of local educational resources for stakeholders and governing bodies.

### 2.5.1 Planning Committee (PC)

As discussed further in Chapter 4, the PC is CABY's main strategic planning body, synonymous with the DWR-required Regional Water Management Group or RWMG. PC members commit to making a good-faith effort to reach consensus while implementing the IRWMP. Members participate in quarterly meetings, direct IRWMP-related activities, and make one presentation per year on projects or issues of interest to their respective organizations and the CABY group. Members also participate in issue-specific work groups (discussed in further detail below). Entities become members through adoption of the IRWMP.

PC members represent diverse interests across CABY's four watersheds, including all four major water purveyors with jurisdiction in the planning area, conservation groups, county representatives, regional representatives, watershed collaborators, small rural water purveyors, recreational/business interests, national forests, and agricultural representatives (see Table 2-1 – CABY PC Members/Adoptees and Table 2-2 – CABY PC Members Unable to Officially Adopt the Plan). This mix of representatives is intentionally diverse. Approximately 45 PC members have now formally adopted the IRWMP.

### 2.5.2 Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee (CC) was established to assist CABY staff with a variety of activities on a regular basis. The CC is the primary decision-making body for the group, and acts with full consultation with the PC. The CC approves contracts, budgets, and policies, and provides direction to CABY consultants, while continuing to provide planning, technical expertise, and communications to stakeholder groups in the region and beyond.

The CC consists of four water agencies and four conservation groups, all of which are also PC members (see Table 2-1 – CABY PC Members/Adoptees).

### 2.5.3 CABY Work Groups

Appointed by the PC, the Work Groups develop goals, objectives, actions, and recommendations for specific management areas (water supply, water quality, and environment and habitat protection). Work Groups are open to both CABY members and interested parties, and members of the public. As discussed further in Chapter 4, a number of Work Groups (composed of PC members as well as interested parties) were convened during the IRWMP Update to assist the PC in identifying goals, objectives, and actions. New Work Groups are convened when necessary to focus on such topics as project development, data management, and strategic planning. The project development Work Groups are integral to the creation of large-scale, multi-stakeholder, multi-objective projects that focus on region-wide issues, such as fish passage, working landscapes, and water supply. These Work Groups have worked diligently – offering hundreds of hours of participation to support CABY's annual plan update process and have developed a variety of specific project proposals that will implement resource

management strategies and objectives of this Plan, as well as informing policy-level discussions and identification of emerging issues within a topical framework.

### **2.5.3.1 How to Get Involved with CABY Work Groups**

Work Groups are made up of volunteers who join a group based on their experience or interests. Individual CABY members will recruit stakeholders to join a group. Each Work Group sets its own parameters and meeting schedule. Work Groups are open to members both inside and outside the CABY region to address the inter-regional nature of many issues. The Work Group meetings are posted on the website; group members frequently recruit and inform other interested parties of meetings.